

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 07112 241326 Z

53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 DPW-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /095 W

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P R 241040 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASSHDC PRIORITY 0661

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

USSAG NKP RTAFB

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7112

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, VS

SUBJECT: TPJMC AGREES ON RELEASING SOME CIVILIAN DETAINEES

1. AT MEETING OF CHIEFS OF DELEGATION TO TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION APRIL 24, RVN AND PRG REACHED AGREEMENT ON FIRST PHASE OF RELEASE OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS, WITH DETAILS OF RELEASE TO BE WORKED OUT IN MEETING OF TPJMC POW SUBCOMMISSION LATER THE SAME DAY. INITIAL BREAKTHROUGH ON ISSUE CAME AS RESULT OF RVN PROPOSAL FOR SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE OF 637 CIVILIANS WHICH PRG PRESENTLY ADMITS HOLDING AND 750 OF 5,081 CIVILIAN DETAINEES HELD BY RVN. PRG AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, BUT IT WAS STILL UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS AGREEMENT INCLUDED RELEASE OF ALL OR PART OF 637 LISTED BY PRG. RVN COMMITMENT TO RELEASE 750 APPEARS FIRM, HOWEVER, RVN AGAIN MADE STRONG APPEAL TO PRG TO INCREASE NUMBER OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS IT ADMITS HOLDING BEYOND 637, STRESSING IN PARTICULAR THOSE 1,033 LISTED BY RVN AS HAVING BEEN CAPTURED SINCE CEASE- FIRE.

2. MEETING WAS UNPRODUCTIVE OTHERWISE. FIRST TWO HOURS WERE TAKEN UP BY RVN RECITATION OF COMMUNIST CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS AND  
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 07112 241326 Z

REITERATION BY PRG OF ITS DEMANDS FOR MEETINGS OF LOCAL COMMANDERS ( DOWN TO PLATOON LEVEL) TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS, AND FOR JOINT

APIEAL. RVN AGAIN REJECTED BOTH DEMANDS, BUT AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO LATER JOINT APPEAL TO TWO PARTIES " ONCE THE THIRD PARTY ON THE SCENE HAS WITHDRAWN ITS TROOPS AND GONE HOME." RVN ONCE AGAIN STATED THAT UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF THE 410 ARVN POWS STILL HELD BY THE PRG IS TO TOP PRIORITY AND MAY NOT BE LINKED WITH ISSUE OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES. RVN ALSO REJECTED PRG DEMANDS FOR RETURN OF 241 ENEMY POW RALLIERS, BUT REPEATED OFFER TO LET PRG INTERVIEW THEM, IN PRESENCE OF ICCS, TO VERIFY THE AUTHENTICITY OF THEIR REFUSAL TO RETURN TO THE COMMUNIST SIDE.

3. RVN IS STEPPING UP ITS EFFORTS TO MAKE ITS POSITION ON ISSUES WITHIN THE TPJMC A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD. A SECOND LETTER, OUTLINING THE RVN POSITION, PARTICULARLY ON THE QUESTION OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PRISONERS, HAS BEEN SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ICCS. ALTHOUGH IT AGAIN STOPS SHORT OF REQUESTING SPECIFIC ACTION OF THE ICCS, IT IS A COGENT AND DETAILED DOCUMENT. MOREOVER, TAKING A LEAF FROM THE PRG SATURDAY MORNING PRESS CONFERENCE , GENERAL THUAN, RVN DELEGATION CHIEF, WILL MEET THE FOREIGN PRESS ON FRIDAY, APRIL 27, THE FIRST SUCH MEETING OF ITS KIND.  
BUNKER

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**To:** CINCPAC  
EA  
JEC PARIS  
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